

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/3>

PARTICLES THAT AFFECT THE SUBJECT IN ARABIC (إنَّ وأخواتها)

Umurzakova Aygul Umarovna

Lecturer, Department of Arabic Translation Theory and Practice
Uzbekistan State World Languages University Tashkent, Uzbekistan

TEL: +998(90)3265116

E-Mail: aygulumurzakova@gmail.com

Abstract

In the literature and sources on Arabic linguistics, the issue of the accusative case of nouns and its expression through particles is discussed in a scattered manner and, in some works, only very briefly. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the semantic characteristics and syntactic functions of particles belonging to the class of function words that affect the subject of a nominal sentence in Modern Standard Arabic.

Keywords: nominal sentence (الجملة الإسمية), subject (المبتدأ), predicate (الخبر), accusative case (المنصوب), particles (الحروف).

Introduction

Arabic nouns have three grammatical cases: the nominative case (الرَّفْعُ), the accusative case (النَّصْبُ), and the genitive case (الْجَرُّ). Unlike many languages, Arabic does not have fixed suffixes for these cases. Rather, the case of a noun is identified through the vowel ending (i' rāb) of the final letter and its syntactic function within the sentence.

The accusative case of nouns possesses distinctive characteristics and complexities in Arabic grammar. Under normal grammatical conditions, the subject of a sentence appears in the nominative case. However, in Arabic, certain grammatical elements may cause not only secondary sentence components but

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

also the subject itself to appear in the accusative case. These elements include verbs and auxiliary verbs, particles, and other functional words. In Arabic linguistics, a noun occurring in the accusative case is considered a governed element (ma'mūl). In addition, several sentence constituents unique to Arabic grammar are also governed in the accusative case.

Among the particles that require nouns to appear in the accusative case are **إِنَّ** وأخواتها (Inna and its Sisters), commonly referred to as particles affecting the subject. These particles are six in number:

- **إِنَّ** – “indeed, truly”
- **أَنَّ** – “that”
- **كَأَنَّ** – “as if, as though”
- **لَكِنَّ** – “but, however”
- **لَعَلَّ** – “perhaps, hopefully”
- **لَيْتَ** – “if only, would that”

These particles are also known by the following names:

1. الحروف المشبهة بالأفعال – Particles resembling verbs.
2. الحروف العاملة في الجملة – Particles operating within the sentence.
3. نواسخ الابتداء – Particles that alter the syntactic status of the subject in nominal sentences.

Semantic Functions of the Particles

أَنَّ and **إِنَّ**

These particles express emphasis and affirmation. They emphasize the relationship between the subject and the predicate.

Example:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ رَحِيمٌ

“Indeed, Allah is Merciful.”

كَأَنَّ

This particle expresses comparison or resemblance. Historically, it developed from the combination of the emphatic particle **إِنَّ** and the comparative particle **كَاف**

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

التشبيهه. To facilitate pronunciation, the hamza of **إِنَّ** was modified, resulting in the fixed comparative particle **كَأَنَّ**.

Example:

كَأَنَّ الْعِلْمَ نُورٌ

“Knowledge is like light.”

لَكِنَّ

This particle conveys correction and contrast.

Example:

زَيْدٌ شَجَاعٌ، وَلَكِنَّهُ بَخِيلٌ

“Zayd is brave, but he is stingy.”

An example illustrating its emphatic function is:

لَوْ جَاءَنِي خَلِيلٌ لِأَكْرَمْتُهُ، لَكِنَّهُ لَمْ يَجِئْ

“If my friend had come to me, I would have honored him, but he did not come.”

The first clause already implies that the friend did not come; therefore, the second clause serves to emphasize this fact.

لَيْتَ

This particle expresses a wish for something unattainable or highly unlikely.

Examples:

أَلَا لَيْتَ الشَّبَابَ يَعُودُ يَوْمًا

“Would that youth could return one day.”

لَيْتَ لِي أَلْفَ دِينَارٍ

“If only I had one thousand dinars.”

Occasionally, it may also be used for something that is theoretically possible, though this usage is relatively rare:

لَيْتَكَ تَذْهَبُ

“If only you would leave.”

لَعَلَّ

This particle conveys hope, expectation, fear, or concern.

Example:

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

لَعَلَّ الصَّدِيقَ قَادِمًا

“Perhaps my friend is coming.”

It may also express apprehension:

لَعَلَّ الْمَرِيضَ هَالِكًا

“Perhaps the patient may perish.”

The particle **لَعَلَّ** is generally used only with events considered possible. It can sometimes convey the meaning of supposition:

لَعَلِّي أَزُورُكَ الْيَوْمَ

“Perhaps I will visit you today.”

Grammatical Effect of Inna and Its Sisters

These particles affect only nominal sentences and must precede the subject. A nominal sentence consists of two main parts:

1. The subject (mubtada'), which becomes accusative and is called the noun (ism) of Inna.
2. The predicate (khabar), which remains nominative and is called the predicate (khabar) of Inna.

Forms of the Predicate

The predicate of these particles may appear in three forms:

1. A Single Word

كَأَنَّ أَحْمَدَ أَسَدٌ

“Ahmad is like a lion”.

2. A Clause

- a) Verbal clause

إِنَّ الْعِلْمَ يَعْزِّزُ صَاحِبَهُ

“Knowledge strengthens its possessor”.

- b) Nominal clause

إِنَّ الْعَالِمَ قَدْرُهُ مَرْتَفِعٌ

“The scholar's status is high”.

3. شبه جملة (Semi-Sentence)

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

This consists of a prepositional phrase or an adverbial expression functioning as a predicate.

إِنَّ الْعَادِلَ تَحْتَ لَوَاءِ الرَّحْمَنِ، وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمَ فِي زِمْرَةِ الشَّيْطَانِ

“Indeed, the just person is under the banner of the Merciful, while the oppressor is among the followers of Satan”.

Omission of the Predicate

The predicate of these particles may sometimes be omitted. Such omission is classified as either permissible (جائز) or obligatory (واجب).

If contextual evidence clearly indicates the omitted predicate, omission is permissible. When the predicate is represented by a prepositional phrase or adverbial expression, special rules of word order apply.

Example:

إِنَّ فِي الدَّارِ صَاحِبَهَا

“Indeed, in the house there is its owner”.

In this sentence, *صاحبها* cannot precede *في الدار* because the attached pronoun refers back to the delayed element.

The Qur’anic example:

وَإِنَّ لَنَا لِلْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَى (Al-Layl: 13)

“Indeed, both the Hereafter and this world belong to Us”.

Examples of predicates occurring between the noun and the predicate include:

إِنَّكَ عِنْدَنَا مَقِيمٌ

“Indeed, you are staying with us”.

إِنَّكَ فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ تَتَعَلَّمُ

“Indeed, you are studying at school”.

إِنَّ سَعِيدًا دَرَسَهُ يَكْتُبُ

“Indeed, Sa’id is writing his lesson”.

The Effect of Mā (ما) with Inna and Its Sisters

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

When ما is attached to these particles, they may lose their governing function. In such cases, the following noun and predicate remain a regular subject and predicate (mubtada' and khabar). This construction is known as ما الكافية.

After the addition of ما, these particles may govern verbs as well as nouns, with the exception of ليت.

However, if ما functions as a relative pronoun or a verbal noun marker, the governing force of the particle remains intact. In such instances, ما itself serves as the noun of the particle.

Coordinated Subjects

When coordinated subjects follow these particles, both remain in the accusative case.

Example:

إِنَّ سَعِيداً وَخَالِداً مَسَافِرَانِ

“Indeed, Sa‘id and Khālid are travelers”.

Sometimes, however, the second coordinated noun appears in the nominative case. This occurs when a predicate intervenes before the second noun, and the omitted predicate is understood.

Example:

إِنَّ سَعِيداً مَسَافِراً وَخَالِداً

“Indeed, Sa‘id is traveling, and Khālid (is traveling as well)”.

This usage is found only with إِنَّ، أَنْ، and لَكِنَّ.

Restrictions on Predicate Position

The predicate of these particles generally cannot precede either the particle itself or its noun. However, when the predicate consists of an adverbial phrase or a prepositional phrase, it may precede the noun.

Example:

إِنَّ عِنْدَكَ زَيْداً مَقِيماً

“Indeed, Zayd is staying with you”.

Similarly:

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

إِنَّ فِي الدَّارِ زَيْدًا

“Indeed, there is Zayd in the house”.

Comparison with Uzbek

The accusative case usage associated with **إِنَّ وَأَخْوَاتَهَا** differs significantly from Uzbek grammatical structures. In Uzbek, the accusative case is typically marked by the suffix **-ni**. Although these Arabic particles require the subject to appear in the accusative case, their Uzbek translations generally preserve the nominative form.

Examples:

إِنَّ الْإِحْسَانَ فَضِيلَةٌ

“Indeed, benevolence is a virtue”.

مَنْ الْمَعْلُومُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا شَابٌّ عَاقِلٌ

“It is known that Muhammad is an intelligent young man”.

كَأَنَّ زَيْنَبَ مَلَكٌ

“Zaynab is like an angel”.

الْمَنْزِلُ صَغِيرٌ وَلَكِنَّ مَوْقِعَهُ جَمِيلٌ

“The house is small, but its location is beautiful”.

لَعَلَّ الْمَرِيضَ يُشْفَى

“Perhaps the patient will recover”.

لَيْتَ الْجُهَلَاءَ عَالِمُونَ

“If only the ignorant were knowledgeable”.

Conclusion

The particles **إِنَّ وَأَخْوَاتَهَا** possess distinctive grammatical and semantic characteristics that differ considerably from those found in other languages, particularly Uzbek. While their primary syntactic function is to affect the subject by assigning it the accusative case, their role extends beyond this function. These particles contribute important nuances of emphasis, comparison, correction,

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/3>

hope, and wishfulness, thereby influencing the overall meaning and structure of the sentence.

References

1. Al-Ghalayini, Mustafa. *Jāmi‘ al-Durūs al-‘Arabiyyah*. Cairo, 2007.
2. Nasif, Hifni; Diwab, Muhammad. *Al-Durūs al-Naḥwiyyah*. Cairo, 2009.
3. Abd al-Ghani, Amin. *Al-Naḥw al-Wāḍiḥ*. Cairo, 2010.
4. Abd al-Ghani, Aynam Amin. *Al-Naḥw al-Kāfī*. Cairo, 2010.